

**Homeland
Security**

July 25, 2005

Mr. Michael Cromartie
Chair
United States Commission
on International Religious Freedom
Suite 790
800 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 22202

Dear Mr. Cromartie:

Thank you again for our recent meeting regarding the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom study, *Report on Asylum Seekers in Expedited Removal*. I am pleased to inform you that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has adopted one of the Commission's major recommendations. Last week I announced that the Department's new policy directorate will have a Senior Asylum Officer. This individual will coordinate the Department's policies on the cross-cutting issues faced by those seeking asylum or refugee status in this country.

I welcome the Commission's continued input in the important issues pertaining to refugee law and policy, and I look forward to additional discussions with you when the new Senior Asylum Officer comes on board.

Thank you once again for your thoughtful review of issues relating to asylum seekers encountering the expedited removal process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Michael Chertoff", written over a horizontal line.

Michael Chertoff